



INL Geochemist Carl Palmer (left) addresses a delegation of Canadian visitors who visited Idaho National Laboratory recently to learn more about energy research projects. At right is Alberta's Deputy Premier Ron Stevens.

## INL hosts Alberta leaders

by [Keith Arterburn](#) and [Reuel Smith](#), *INL Communications*

IDAHO FALLS -- A delegation from Alberta, Canada, led by the province's Deputy Premier Ron Stevens, visited Idaho National Laboratory in December and were honored guests at its annual community holiday reception.

During the two-day visit, the group of seven officials toured INL to learn about its capabilities, ongoing nuclear energy research and Western Energy Corridor initiatives.

INL's associate laboratory director, J.W. "Bill" Rogers Jr., served as the official host for the delegation, which included the U.S. Consul General from Calgary, Tom Huffaker, and Idaho Administrator for the Office of Energy Resources Paul Kjellander.

After hearing a briefing about urban vehicle designs, the group got a detailed tour of INL's nuclear hydrogen laboratory. The demonstration project uses high-temperature electrolysis, for which nuclear reactors could serve as the principal heat source, to produce hydrogen from water.

The Canadian delegation was particularly interested in the fossil energy laboratory, where researchers explained investigations into oil shale and carbon management. Alberta has some of the largest oil shale and oil sand deposits in the world, representing the largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia.

The Albertans were interested in the science and engineering research at INL dealing with energy systems. Their tour included a visit to INL's Separations and Polymers Laboratory and the Synthetic Fuels Catalysis Lab. The discussions centered on boosting efficiencies through new approaches, including efforts to get significantly more energy out of current fuels and the chemical processes that occur during energy production and use.



***INL's Steve Herring describes the high-temperature electrolysis demonstration project to the Canadian delegation.***

The group also learned about significant INL research to develop new hybrid energy systems, with an emphasis on transportation fuels. An in-depth briefing described transportation fuels made from coal (called coal-to-liquid fuels) that could help reduce U.S. oil imports. The delegation also heard how combining nuclear with other conventional energy systems could boost the efficiency of energy production and carbon use. It also could reduce harmful emissions to the atmosphere with carbon capture and reuse systems.

The delegation also learned about efforts advancing the Next Generation Nuclear Plant, followed by a visit to the desert Site and a tour of the Advanced Test Reactor National Scientific User Facility.

At the end of their first day at INL, members of the Canadian delegation were distinguished guests at INL's annual holiday reception for state and local officials and community leaders. More than 100 people attended the reception held at the Museum of Idaho in Idaho Falls.

Rogers hosted the evening event, welcomed all guests and introduced the Albertan visitors. He emphasized INL's many successes during the past year, including earning an "A" grade and a 97 percent award fee from the Department of Energy.

"This could not have been accomplished without the commitment and dedication of the nearly 4,000 employees – your family and neighbors who work at INL," he said.

Deputy Premier Stevens thanked Rogers and the Idaho Falls community for a warm welcome in a cold winter.

"INL is a world-class laboratory in energy research," he said. "We are here learning more about what the lab is doing, where we have some common interests and where we might work with the lab going forward."

More exchanges between INL and Alberta government and research institutions are planned in the future.

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